



General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee

Chairman: Mr. Julian Robert Hunte (Saint Lucia)

1. At its 14th meeting, on 30 June 2006, the Special Committee considered pending matters related to its work and took decisions on the agenda items listed below.

Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. The General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI), authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 2621 (XXV), the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters, as appropriate.

3. In that connection, the Special Committee decided to consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2007 and, when particulars of such meetings become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions in accordance with established procedure.

Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 23 February 2006, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold



consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chairman will also hold consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group is not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2007.

Pattern of conferences

5. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 60/236 A. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided to continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Special Committee also decided, taking into account the probable workload of the Committee for 2007, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June	Up to 30 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/June	20 meetings
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7. It would be understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2007, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Committee would, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum, while fulfilling its mandate.

Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50, 39/68, 51/211 B and 60/236 B. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

9. In accordance with a decision taken at its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Special Committee further limited its documentation and no longer issued as separate documents the resolutions adopted by the Committee during its substantive session, thus achieving further savings in costs related to the publication of its official documents.

10. By its resolution 50/206 B, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records.

Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

11. The Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its sixty-first session.

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, referred to in General Assembly resolution 55/146 and contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61), provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, and subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its sixty-first session in this regard, the Special Committee decided to organize in 2007 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

13. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of the actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-second session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its sixty-first session with regard to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

14. The Special Committee further decided to defer the draft decision appointing Dr. Carlyle Corbin as an independent expert to the organizational session of the Committee in February 2007.

Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

15. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.



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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Fiji and Papua New Guinea: draft resolution

Question of Tokelau

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Tokelau,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to Tokelau,¹

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular General Assembly resolution 60/116 of 8 December 2005,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand as the administering Power with regard to the work of the Special Committee relating to Tokelau and its readiness to permit access by United Nations visiting missions to the Territory,

Also noting with appreciation the collaborative contribution to the development of Tokelau by New Zealand and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Recalling the inauguration in 1999 of a national legislative body, the General Fono, based on village elections by universal adult suffrage and the assumption by that body in June 2003 of full responsibility for the Tokelau budget,

Recalling also the report of the United Nations mission dispatched in August 2002 to Tokelau at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the representatives of Tokelau,²

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/61/23)*, chap. X.

² A/AC.109/2002/31.



Noting that, as a small island Territory, Tokelau exemplifies the situation of most remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and that, as a case study pointing to successful cooperation for decolonization, Tokelau has wider significance for the United Nations as it seeks to complete its work in decolonization,

Recalling that New Zealand and Tokelau signed in November 2003 a document entitled "Joint statement of the principles of partnership", which sets out in writing, for the first time, the rights and obligations of the two partner countries,

Bearing in mind the decision of the General Fono at its meeting in November 2003, following extensive consultations undertaken in all three villages, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association and its decision in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand,

1. *Notes* that Tokelau remains firmly committed to the development of its capacity for self-government and to an act of self-determination that would result in Tokelau assuming a status in accordance with the options on future status for Non-Self-Governing Territories contained in principle VI of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960;

2. *Welcomes* the substantial progress made towards the devolution of power to the three taupulega (village councils), in particular the delegation of the Administrator's powers to the three taupulega with effect from 1 July 2004 and the assumption by each taupulega from that date of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;

3. *Recalls* the decision of the General Fono in November 2003, following extensive consultations in all three villages and a meeting of the Special Committee on the Constitution of Tokelau, to explore formally with New Zealand the option of self-government in free association, and the discussions subsequently held between Tokelau and New Zealand pursuant to the General Fono decision;

4. *Recalls also* the decision of the General Fono in August 2005 to hold a referendum on self-government on the basis of a draft constitution for Tokelau and a treaty of free association with New Zealand, and notes the enactment by the General Fono of rules for the referendum;

5. *Welcomes* the invitation extended to the United Nations by Tokelau and New Zealand to monitor Tokelau's act of self-determination;

6. *Acknowledges* Tokelau's initiative in devising a strategic economic development plan for the period 2002-2005, and notes that a strategic plan for the period 2006-2009 is now being developed in consultation with New Zealand;

7. *Also acknowledges* the continuing assistance that New Zealand has committed to promoting Tokelau's welfare, as well as the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme, including the relief and recovery assistance provided in the aftermath of Cyclone Percy in 2005;

8. *Further acknowledges* Tokelau's need for continued support, given the adjustments that are taking place with the strengthening of its capacity for self-government, and the ongoing responsibility of Tokelau's external partners to assist Tokelau in balancing its desire to be self-reliant to the greatest extent possible with its need for external assistance;

9. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Tokelau International Trust Fund to support the future development needs of Tokelau and the offer of a donor round

table by the United Nations Development Programme, and calls upon Member States and international and regional agencies to announce contributions to the Fund and thereby lend practical support to assist this emerging country in overcoming the problems of smallness, isolation and lack of resources;

10. *Also welcomes* the assurance of the Government of New Zealand that it will meet its obligations to the United Nations with respect to Tokelau and abide by the freely expressed wishes of the people of Tokelau with regard to their future status;

11. *Further welcomes* the cooperative attitude of the other States and territories in the region towards Tokelau, and their support for its economic and political aspirations and increasing participation in regional and international affairs;

12. *Welcomes* the associate membership of Tokelau in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and its recent accession to membership in the Forum Fisheries Agency, observer status at the Pacific Islands Forum and associate membership in the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission;

13. *Calls upon* the administering Power and United Nations agencies to continue to provide assistance to Tokelau as it further develops its economy and governance structures;

14. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the administering Power to transmit information regarding the political, economic and social situation of Tokelau to the Secretary-General;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the successful visit to Tokelau in October 2004 by the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

16. *Notes* the considerable progress made towards the adoption of a Constitution and of national symbols by Tokelau, the steps taken by Tokelau and New Zealand to agree to a draft treaty of free association as a basis for an act of self-determination and the support expressed by Tokelauan communities in New Zealand for the move by Tokelau towards self-determination;

17. *Commends* the professional and transparent conduct of the referendum held to determine the future status of Tokelau, monitored by the United Nations from 11 to 15 February 2006;

18. *Notes* that the referendum failed by a narrow margin to produce the two-thirds majority of the valid votes cast required by the General Fono to change Tokelau's status as a Non-Self-Governing Territory under the administration of New Zealand;

19. *Welcomes* the agreement of New Zealand to the request by the Tokelauan Council on Ongoing Government to maintain the referendum package of a draft Constitution and draft Treaty of Free Association as a possible basis for a future act of self-determination by Tokelau;

20. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue to examine the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Tokelau and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.